Mills without the payment of wages to 6000 old workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action for the payment of wages to the workers of the Delhi Cloth Mills; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) The management of Delhi Cloth and General Mills submitted an application on 27-3-1985 to the Delhi Administration for permission under Section 25(0) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to close down the unit with effect from 1-7-1985. The reasons stated by the management to close down the Mill relate, among others, to the factory buildings being very old, the location and operation of the Mill at the site being violative of the land use specified in the Master Plan for Delhi, the dense population in the vicinity being exposed to hazards of pollution, traffic, fire and unhealthy environment and it being not economically viable to run the Mill.

The Delhi Administration, the appropriate authority under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, refused permission to the management to close down the Mill on 15-4-1985, whereupon the management filed a writ petition in the Delhi Hight Court against the order of the Delhi Administration rejecting the Company's application for closure. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Boosting of housing activities for letting out

1754. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that rent laws in the country which are heavily weighed in favour of tenants, resulting bad physical condition of the houses and discourage the construction of houses for letting out;

(b) whether Government propose to issue guidelines to States to amend rent laws, in order to boost construction of houses in the country; and

(c) if not, what other steps Government propose to take to give a fillip to housing activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Rent Control is a State subject and this Ministry is administratively concerned with Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958. However, representations are received in this effect from time to time.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present. However, amendment of Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 is under consideration which may become a model Act for the State Governments and in turn boost housing activity.

Screening of serial 'Tamas'

1755. SHRI RAM CHADRA VIKAL:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any controversy has arisen on the telecasting of the serial 'Tamas';

(b) if so, what is the feed back received by Government regarding this serial and whether any survey has been carried out about the viewers' reactions by any official or non-official agency, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether police arrangements were adequate when the Hyderabad T.V. Centre was attacked by demonstrators in protest against screening of the serial and what is Government's reaction to the demonstrations held at Hyderabad and other places; and

(d) the estimated loss/damage caused to various items of Hyderabad Doordarshan Kendra as a result thereof and the details of the items damaged?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Some parties/organisations wanted Doordarshan to stop the telecast of 'Tamas' They felt that it might have adverse effects on the viewers. Though no formal survey has been undertaken by the Government to assess the reactions of viewers on this programme, an opinion poll in Bombay conducted on behalf of a newspapers while the serial was on, showed that a majority of respondents wanted the telecast of "Tamas" to continue.

(c) The State Government could not provide adequate protection to safeguard against the damage to the property of the Central Government in spite of advance notice to the State Police. The Andhra Pradesh Government has been requested to ensure that Doordarshan Kendra which is considered as vital installations with costly equipment is given necessary protection. Instructions were also sent to all other kendras in the country to take precautionary measures in consultation with the local authorities to prevent such happenings. All State Governments have also been requested to ensure adequate security arrangements at the Kendras and Transmitters Sites in their States.

(d) The damage to the property is estimated to be about Rs. 6.8 lakhs. The damaged articles include furniture, telephone instruments, typewriters, TV sets, Video cassetes, fans, Almirah, PABX, records of the Account Section, Video tapes, camera etc. One Ambassador car and a Jeep were also damaged. The agriculture and commercial sections were set on fire. Window panes, doors and bathrooms were ransacked.

Expenses incurred by NCC on litigation

1756. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Consumers Cooperative Federation Limited had sometime back incurred huge expenses on litigation in contesting a case with the National Textile Corporation (WBABO) Limited, Calcutta in the matter of certain business transactions and payment of dues;

(b) whether Government had recently received requests/representations from Members of Parliament to settle the case without allowing the drainage of public funds over such issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action being taken to resolve the issue without any further delay and without any further loss of money immediately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) NCCF has reported that it has so far spent Rs. 14,000 towards legal expenses for defending a case filed by the NTC (WBABO) Limited in the Calcutta High Court for a claim of Rs. 206.77 lakhs inclusive of an interest amount of Rs. 63.40 lakhs, against the NCCF and three other parties towards the supply of non-controlled textile during the period 1979—84.